

12 OCT 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Real Estate and Construction Division, OL

STATINTL FROM : [REDACTED]  
Project SAFE Coordinator

VIA : Chief, Headquarters Engineering Branch, RECD/OL

SUBJECT : Project SAFE -- FY 77 Funding and Related Matters

STATINTL 1. Project SAFE Director, [REDACTED] has indicated that the funding for Project SAFE as a line item in the Agency's FY 1977 budget has survived review by both Houses of Congress and was subsequently approved by the President. As such, it would appear that the \$3,500,000 for FY 1977 (including \$1,500,000 for facilities-type work) is available in the budget. As the entire SAFE Project funding, including facilities-type support, was put into the budget request and subsequently defended by the Office of Data Processing (ODP), it is presumed that facility-type monies will appear in their budget until transfer to the Office of Logistics (OL) for the creation of a funding account similar to the "1127 account" for the ongoing ODP expansion program.

2. Thus, with major funding apparently available, OL must be prepared to initiate support for this program which by the nature of facilities funding (\$1,500,000 in FY 1977 and \$2,000,000 in FY 1978) will necessitate major construction projects in an expedited manner. Recent RECD/OL discussions with the Regional Public Buildings Service Commissioner, however, indicate that the Agency's special status in terms of public exigency may be in serious jeopardy. The recent Office of General Counsel (OGC) memorandum regarding public exigency for the renovation of the Community Headquarters Building appears to have been a major tactical mistake as it left this Agency "exposed" as to our own doubts regarding this status. Should this Agency not be able to justify continued "favored status" and be forced to go to the Congressional prospectus route (projects for all work in excess of \$500,000 cumulatively), it would appear that an estimated 2 years may be lost in merely floating the prospectus and preliminary plans through Congress and the National Capitol Area Planning Commission. Such a preliminary delay would clearly nullify use of the aforementioned facilities funding cycle and negate any real potential of meeting the preliminary requirements in the second quarter CY 78. The long-term affects on

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RECD/OL of such a loss of status are even more significant when viewing similar other federal projects which typically require 3 to 5 years for completion.

3. However, in this regard there appears to be a major dichotomy which requires immediate action to rectify between the questionable relative status of Project SAFE and any other major construction projects of the Agency with regard to public exigency (by virtue of the Agency's special mission and the unique powers of the Director) and the apparent pre-approval of the entire SAFE package by Congress and the President which includes the inherent major construction of new facilities.

4. Consequently, a major determination between OGC and the General Services Administration is mandatory to finalize the Agency's status with regard to public building law. This action must precede any effort to realistically define an action plan for SAFE, which must be accomplished on an accelerated basis if the June 1978 goal is realistic, even anticipating readily available space outside of the Headquarters Building for those functions which will be displaced by the creation of the SAFE facility. Should further information or assistance be required, please contact the undersigned.

STATINTL



Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee

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STATOTHR

OL/RECD/HEB [redacted] :sbt/ [redacted] (12 Oct 76)